THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: James Kopniske
(216) 707-2261
jkopniske@clevelandart.org

CMA's VIVA! & Gala Around Town hosts Sō Percussion

Contemporary percussion group hailed "Brilliant" –The New York Times

CLEVELAND (October 23, 2007)—The Cleveland Museum of Art's (CMA) acclaimed **VIVA! & Gala Around Town** concert series welcomes **Sō Percussion** on November 9, 2007 at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH)**.**

Called "astonishing and entrancing" by *Billboard* magazine, *Sō Percussion* gives fresh voice to contemporary music. Devoted to the conceptual dreamscapes of Reich, Iannis Xenakis, John Cage, and others, Sō has created a disciplined work ethic, learning pieces whole—memorized and absorbed, instead of merely read – for a stunning live dynamic.

Sō Percussion is: Josh Quillen, Adam Sliwinski, Jason Treuting, and Lawson White. Following two acclaimed albums of the music of Steve Reich, David Lang and Evan Ziporyn, as well as ongoing collaborations with electronica duo (& Björk bandmates) Matmos, the 20-something quartet has discovered a bold new voice: their own. Their latest CD/DVD *Amid the Noise* experiments with glockenspiel, toy piano, vibraphones, bowed marimba, melodica, tuned and prepared pipes, metals, a wayward ethernet port, and all kinds of sound programming. The resulting idiosyncratic tone explorations were synchronized to Jenise Treuting's haunting films of street scenes in Manhattan and Tokyo.

Sō Percussion's program on November 9 at CMNH will include music of Steve Reich from their release *Drumming*, a new work by Paul Lansky and music from their newest album *Amid the Noise.*

With an audience comprised of "both kinds of blue hair... elderly matron here, arty punk there" (*The Boston Globe*), **Sō Percussion** makes a rare and wonderful breed of music that both compels instantly and offers vast rewards for engaged listening. Edgy and ancient, **Sō Percussion** is nothing if not itself.

--more--

Admission to the performance is $30; $28 for CMA members. Special group and student rates are available. To purchase tickets call the CMA Ticket Center at 1-888-CMA-0033 or on online at www.clevelandart.org/viva. Sō Percussion performs in Murch Auditorium at CMNH, 1 Wade Oval Drive in Cleveland. Valet parking will be available for $5.

VIVA! & Gala Around Town

We are pleased to announce a special event just added to our calendar: Friday, November 30, Alex Ross, classical music critic of the New Yorker magazine, gives an "iPod Talk" at CMA. In music and discussion, Ross gives us a fascinating overview of a century of music. Ross' new book "The Rest Is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century" travels from Vienna before the First World War to downtown New York in the sixties and seventies - not so much a history of twentieth-century music as a history of the twentieth century through its music. Free event, tickets required. Call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit clevelandart.org/tickets

The next performance in the VIVA! & Gala Around Town series will be pianist, Sara Daneshpour, on January 11, 2008 at The Cleveland Institute of Music. Sara Daneshpour has performed at some of the most prestigious concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, and in Moscow at the Great Hall of the Tchaikovsky conservatory and the Gnessin School of Music. Currently at Curtis Music Institute studying the piano with Leon Fleisher, Sara performed with Billy Joel and seven other pianists as part of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the piano. This performance is SOLD OUT. For more information on VIVA! and to view a complete listing of this year's performers, dates and locations visit www.clevelandart.org/viva

The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The programs are also made possible by The Ernest L. and Louise M. Gartner Fund, The P. J. McMyler Musical Endowment Fund, The Anton and Rose Zverina Music Fund, The Musart Society and Margaret W. Wong & Associates, Co., LPA.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.Clevelandart.org

# # #